



Compass E-News
October 2009

Welcome to Compass E-News. This newsletter is meant to keep you up to date on environmental information from SC DHEC. If you do not wish to continue to receive this newsletter, please reply to this email with unsubscribe as the subject.

Risk Management in South Carolina

The Risk Management Program was implemented by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1990. This was in response to accidental chemical releases in India and the United States that resulted in fatalities. The Program is designed to reduce the number of accidental releases and to ensure that facilities have appropriate procedures in place in the event of a release. The Air Toxics section of the Bureau of Air Quality oversees the Risk Management Program in South Carolina.

Facilities that have over the threshold amount of a regulated substance are required to prepare and submit a Risk Management Plan (RMP) to the EPA. Two common chemicals subject to the Risk Management Program are chlorine and anhydrous ammonia. Inspections are conducted for regulated facilities. These inspections include a review of the documentation required as part of the Risk Management Program. For questions regarding the Risk Management Program, please contact Angel Thompson at (803) 898-4058, Connie Turner at (803) 898-0341, or Mary Peyton Wall at (803) 898-4064.

To meet with facilities and discuss the components of a good Risk Management Program, the Bureau of Air Quality hosted a workshop on October 1, 2009. The workshop was designed to highlight the importance of developing a concrete and meaningful Risk Management Plan. Items covered during the workshop included community relations, interacting with the media, and elements of a good program among others. To find out more about the workshop and to see the presentations, please visit the Risk Management Program webpage at:
<http://www.dhec.sc.gov/environment/baq/112r.aspx>.

The Ground Water Rule

The Ground Water Rule (GWR) applies to public drinking water systems that use ground water as their source water or that purchase drinking water from another system that uses ground water as its source water. The main goal of the GWR is to provide increased protection from microbial pathogens to consumers of water from public ground water systems. Although ground water should generally be free of such pathogens, EPA determined that there have been enough incidences of microbial ground water contamination to warrant a specific rule for ground water systems. Rather than require all ground water systems to disinfect, however, the GWR is designed to target only those systems that are at risk for microbial contamination. The rule uses two methods to target such systems - sanitary surveys (inspections) and source water monitoring. At-risk systems identified through these two methods will be required to take corrective action. To identify at-risk systems through sanitary surveys, the GWR requires states to

review eight specific system elements during their surveys, and to identify significant deficiencies under each element that make or could make a ground water system susceptible to microbial contamination. At-risk systems can also be identified through source water monitoring, of which there are two types – triggered and assessment. To identify at-risk systems through triggered source water monitoring, the GWR requires water systems to sample their ground water source(s) for a fecal coliform indicator whenever they have a routine Total Coliform Rule sample that is positive for total coliform. States can also require assessment source water monitoring at their discretion. This monitoring may be required based on evidence that a system's source(s) may be vulnerable to microbial contamination, such as source water assessment or hydrogeologic sensitivity assessment data. The **compliance date** for the GWR is **December 1, 2009**. DHEC is providing a **free workshop** on the GWR on Tuesday, November 10, 2009, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. The workshop will be held at the DHEC building, 2600 Bull Street in Columbia, in Peebles auditorium. For more information, please contact Rick Hiers with the Bureau of Water at (803) 898-4202.

Definition of a Solid Waste

On October 7, 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency issued a new rule that streamlines regulation of hazardous secondary materials to encourage beneficial recycling. This rule change is commonly referred to as the EPA Definition of Solid Waste Rule. After receiving many comments and concerns, the EPA announced a public meeting that was held on June 30, 2009. The public comment period for this meeting ended on August 13, 2009. EPA is still compiling and developing responses to the comments received during the meeting and comment period. After that, EPA will make a final determination on the need to revise the final Definition of Solid Waste Rule. The Department is waiting for this final determination from EPA before deciding on the adoption of the Definition of Solid Waste Rule. You can find more information at the following website: <http://www.epa.gov/waste/hazard/dsw/rulemaking.htm>.

Industrial Storm Water General Permit Update

The Industrial Storm Water General Permit expired August 31, 2008. The Bureau of Water has been working to update this permit. The expired permit is still in effect until the Department completes the issuance process for a replacement permit. The Department has a few issues from the Stakeholders' review to resolve before moving the draft Industrial Storm Water General Permit on for EPA, Region IV to review. This should happen in the immediate future. The Department does not believe EPA will have much in the way of substantial suggestions for change as they have been involved in our process up to this point. The General permit tentatively has an effective date of **January 1, 2010**. While the time frames are very tight in order to meet this goal, it is the Department's intent to do so.

New Items on Our Website

Asbestos Brochure

Do you know if you need to comply with asbestos regulations? This brochure is a good way to learn about asbestos regulations and whether you are subject. The brochure can be found on the asbestos webpage or at:

<http://www.scdhec.gov/administration/library/ML-025415.pdf>

New Bureau of Air Quality Forms

The Bureau of Air Quality has implemented a couple of forms for permit renewal and facility profile/ownership change. These forms can be found on the forms page or at: <http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/admin/htm/eqcforms.shtml#OP>

Bureau of Air Quality Permitting Guidelines

The Bureau of Air Quality has updated their permitting guidelines. They can be accessed at:

http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/baq/docs/permitting/AirQualityPermittingGuidelines_20090804.pdf

Environmental Assistance Conference – November 4, 2009

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER!!!

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control is hosting its Annual Environmental Assistance Conference. This full day conference will cover permitting and compliance topics, regulatory information, and provide you with an opportunity to ask questions of DHEC's technical experts. This year's conference will feature three concurrent tracks to include topics on Air Quality, Water, and Land/Waste.

When: November 4, 2009

Where: Columbia Conference Center

169 Laurelhurst Ave., Columbia, SC 29210

www.columbiameetings.com

Registration is open and the registration fee is \$55.00/person. Continue to check our Compass Website (www.scdhec.gov/compass) for updates and agenda specifics.

For more information, please contact Rebecca Sproles, 803-896-8883 or email at enviroassist@dhec.sc.gov.

Green Tip

Two sides are better than one when it comes to using paper. Implement a policy at your facility to print on two sides and to use the blank side of a piece of paper that has been printed on one side. The blank side can be used for scratch paper, fax paper, or to print items that will be used internally. This one simple act can greatly reduce paper purchased at your facility. Posters and stickers to promote printing on two sides can be obtained by calling the DHEC recycling office at 1-800-768-7348.

Additional Newsletters

UST Newsletter

http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/html/ust_news.htm

Swimming Pool Newsletter - Newsplash

<http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/water/recreation.htm#splash>

Smart Business Recycling Program

http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/recycle/smart_business/archive.htm

Non-Point Source Newsletter – Turning the Tide

<http://www.dhec.sc.gov/environment/water/npspage.htm#npsnews>

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